

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/662,450  
Amendment filed January 19, 2006  
Reply to OA dated October 19, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 9, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing slurry containing a slurry stock solution and an oxidizing agent, the method comprising the steps of:

setting an initial mixing amount of the oxidizing agent less than the amount required for the oxidizing agent to match a target concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry;

preparing slurry by mixing [[a]] the slurry stock solution and [[an]] the initial mixing amount of the oxidizing agent, the oxidizing agent being mixed so that to prepare slurry in which the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry is less than a predetermined the target value concentration;

detecting the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry; and

additionally supplying the oxidizing agent so that the concentration of the oxidizing agent becomes equal to the predetermined value target concentration.

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Claim 10 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

circulating the slurry in the preparation tank.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the detecting step includes continuously detecting the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry that is being circulated.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the additionally supplying step is performed in accordance with the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry that is detected in the detecting step.

Claim 13-14 (Canceled).